THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, there are 11 major ports in the country located at Calcutta/Haldia, Mumbai, JL Nehru at Nhava Sheva, Chennai, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Kandla, Mormugao, Paradip, New Mangalore and Tuticorin. In addition, there are 139 operable Minor and Intermediate Ports.

(c) and (d) Adequate facilities are available to handle present level of traffic. However, in order to meet the increasing demand of handling traffic, additional cargo handling capacity of the order of around 122 Million Tonnes is proposed to be created during 9th Plan at various major ports.

(e) In Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapatnam Port is proposed to be developed to cater to the increasing demand of traffic.

Modernisation of Rajabagan Dockyard

3456. SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Minimum Investment Plan (MIP) of Rs. 20 crores has been proposed for modernisation of Rajabagan Dockyard;

(b) whether this schedule is likely to be completed in 18 months;

(c) whether Rs. 71 crores have been estimated as a revised cost for completion of the total modernisation job within 42 months;

(d) whether only Rs. 20 crores have been allocated for the Ninth Plan for the above purpose; and

(e) if so, the reasons for non-allocation of Rs. 71 crores for completion of the whole project during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. This includes proposed Dutch assistance of Rs. 9.9 crores, which is under consideration by this Ministry.

(b) The schedule of implementation is 18 months from the date of approval of the MIP and finalisation of the Indo-Dutch Grant Agreement.

(c) The Revised Cost Estimate sanctioned by the Government in December, 1992 for all shiprepair facilities at RBD was Rs. 71.34 crores. The implementation period was 33 months from the date of approval.

(d) and (e) The outlay for the Ninth Plan is under finalisation.

Helping non-striking Transporters

3457. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were several instances of damage to vehicles of those transporters who plied their vehicles inspite of the strike of transporters;

(b) whether it is a fact that the transport unions exerted pressure on small owners and compelled them to join the strike;

(c) the steps Government have taken to help the transporters who did not want to participate in the strike; and

(d) the steps taken to redress the grievances of the striking transporters?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) No such instance has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) All the State Governments/UT Administrators were instructed to provide adequate police protection, especially in sensitive areas to ensure that the striking transporters did not prevent the movement of goods vehicles/passengers, as well as to provide mobile police escorts for tanker-trucks operated by oil companies.

(d) Several rounds of discussions were held between the Ministry of Finance and the representatives of All India Motor Transport Congress and it was agreed as under:—

(i) While working out the modalities for the collection of service tax rendered for the transport of goods by road, Government is willing to change mode of collection in such a manner that the tax would not be collected from road transport operators.

(ii) To ask the Tariff Advisory Committee (TAC) to invite fresh objections/suggestions from the Motor Operators and hold consultations with them de-novo and other pending issues impartially. The TAC shall conclude these consultations expeditiously and will notify the revised premia thereafter. Pending the consultations and subsequent decisions, the recently notified premium rates are being kept in abeyance. The revised tariff shall be applicable prospectively. Insurance premium collected so far at the new revised rate shall be refunded immediately.

Weak condition of Twari Bridge on National Highway 17 in Goa

3458. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of weak condition of Twari Bridge on National Highway 17 in Goa and commuters are put to inconvenience;

(b) whether any action being taken to ferry these commuters by smaller vehicles by Government at its own cost; and

(c) the steps taken to build a new bridge at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir, the bridge referred to is the Zuari Bridge.

(b) The State Govt. proposes to press, two mini buses, into service to transport passengers across the bridge.

(c) The repairs/rehabilitation of the bridge are being taken up by the Ministry. However, the State Government are proposing for the construction of a new bridge on BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) basis at an approximate cost of Rs. 70 crores.

Damage of Mandavi Bridge on National Highway 17 in Goa

3459. SHRI JONH F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the National Highway 17 which has been excavated at Povarim Goa across Mandavi bridge poses a great danger to public life and the New Goa Legislative Assembly Complex;

(b) if so, by when the work is likely to be completed;

(c) the steps Government are contemplating to remove two illegal structures which have come up on the alignment of this Highway; and

(d) the action being taken against officials who permitted this building to came up on this proposed alignment?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Improvements to traffic circulation around north side approach of Mandavi bridge involved deep excavation upto 30 m. After excavation upto 10 m. strata progressively became soft clay causing slope failure of land slide. Revised proposal, involving changes in the vertical profile to restrict further excavations, has been approved.

(b) The likely target date of completion of the work is 12/97.

(c) There are no illegal structures on National Highway land width.

(d) Does not arise.